

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

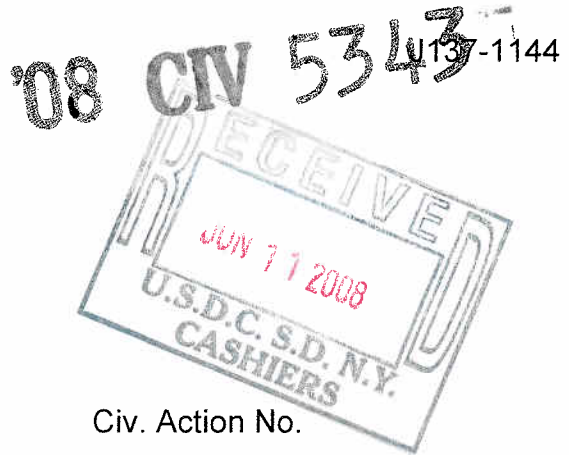
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E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.,  
:

Plaintiff,  
:

-against-  
:

Kristina M. Heick and Robert R. Heick II,  
d/b/a Heick Enterprises,  
:

Defendants.  
----- X



Civ. Action No.

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., by its attorneys, for its Complaint against Defendants Kristina M. Heick and Robert R. Heick II, d/b/a Heick Enterprises allege upon knowledge as to Plaintiff, and otherwise upon information and belief, as follows.

**The Parties**

1. Plaintiff, E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with its principal place of business at 230 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10001.

2. Defendants Kristina M. Heick and Robert R. Heick II, d/b/a Heick Enterprises, are individuals doing business as Heick Enterprises with a place of business at 14306 NE 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Vancouver, Washington 98682-6080.

3. At all times relevant to this matter, Defendants have been responsible for the transactions, actions, and/or omissions at issue in this case and have had sufficient authority over and knowledge of the acts and practices described in this Complaint to render them legally liable for the conduct of Defendants.

### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

4. This is an action for, *inter alia*, trademark infringement, trademark counterfeiting, unfair competition and false designation of origin arising under the Trademark Act of 1946, 15 U.S.C. § 1051 *et seq.*, as amended by the Trademark Counterfeit Act of 1984, Public Law 98.473 (the "Lanham Act"), for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et. seq.*, and for deceptive acts and practices under the laws of the State of New York, specifically the New York General Business Law §§ 349, 350, and for common trademark infringement and unfair competition.

5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and § 1338 because this action arises under the patent and trademark laws of the United States.

6. This Court has jurisdiction under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1338(b) because this action asserts claims of unfair competition under the laws of the State of New York and is joined with a substantial and related claim under the trademark laws of the United States.

7. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because the parties are citizens of different states and the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

8. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the claims in this Complaint which arise under the statutory and common law of the State of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a), because the state law claims are so related to the federal claims that they form part of the same case or controversy and derive from a common nucleus of operative facts.

9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because the claims asserted herein arose in this judicial district and/or because Defendants transact business within this district and have committed tortuous acts of trademark infringement, trademark counterfeiting, false advertising and deceptive acts and practices complained of hereinafter within this district, because Defendants derive substantial revenue from intrastate and interstate commerce and has committed tortuous acts of trademark infringement trademark counterfeiting, false advertising and deceptive acts and practices complained of herein within this district and without this district having injurious consequences within this district, and Defendants are otherwise within the jurisdiction of this Court.

10. Venue is proper in the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), and/or (c), because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims

occurred in this judicial district and/or Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

**Facts Common To All Claims**

11. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. markets and sells consumer products throughout the United States through print media, the Internet, and direct response television advertising, including, but not limited to, the use of television infomercials.

12. In 2006, E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. coined AB ROCKET as a name for an exercise product and, in January 2007, it began to use the AB ROCKET as a trademark to promote and market a manually-operated exerciser for home use.

13. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. has registered the AB ROCKET trademark in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the Principal Register and is the owner of U.S. Trademark Registration No. 3,395,378 for the AB ROCKET trademark for "manually-operated exercise equipment."

14. A true and correct copy of U.S. Trademark Registration No. 3,395,378 is attached hereto as Exhibit A and is incorporated by reference.

15. The AB ROCKET trademark registration is in full force and effect.

16. The AB ROCKET exerciser of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is a manually-operated abdominal exerciser for consumer home use and comprises a blue seat, a back rest composed of multiple parallel rollers also blue, and two blue support arms; the blue seat, blue rollers and blue support arms comprise an arbitrary, non-functional and distinctive trade dress adopted by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. to distinguish the AB ROCKET exerciser from other products in the marketplace. Exhibit B illustrates the AB ROCKET exerciser.

17. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. provides an instructional DVD and printed meal plan with each AB ROCKET exerciser.

18. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. advertises and sells the AB ROCKET product throughout the United States through television infomercials, via Internet websites, including its websites [www.abrocket.com](http://www.abrocket.com) and [www.tryabrocket.com](http://www.tryabrocket.com).

19. As a result of extensive advertising and use of the AB ROCKET trademark by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., the AB ROCKET trademark has become widely and favorably known to the public and has become recognized as identifying a particular source of the product.

20. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. has had a box specially designed for the AB ROCKET exerciser. True and accurate photographs of AB ROCKET box are attached hereto as Exhibit C.

21. The AB ROCKET trademark is prominently displayed on the AB ROCKET exerciser, its box and in advertising for the exerciser.

22. The AB ROCKET box includes photographs, text and artwork created for or by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.

23. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. owns the copyright (for which copyright registration is pending) to the photographs, text and artwork on the AB ROCKET box.

24. On June 3, 2008, U.S. Patent No. 7,381,171 ("the '171 patent", Exhibit D) entitled "Back and Abdomen Exercising Apparatus" was duly and legally issued.

25. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is the owner, by assignment, of the entire right, title and interest in and to the '171 patent.

26. Defendants are engaged in the business of selling products through an Internet website, www.TVBargains.net.

27. Defendants do not sell genuine AB ROCKET branded products of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.

28. Defendants distribute, ship and deliver goods, purchased by purchasers located in this district and elsewhere in New York into New York State and into this judicial

district, in response to orders placed for Defendants' spurious AB ROCKET product advertised via Defendants' website [www.TVBargains.net](http://www.TVBargains.net).

29. Defendants intentionally advertise, offer for sale, sell, distribute and pass off a substantially identical exercise product using the counterfeit trademark, AB ROCKET, in interstate commerce and to New York purchasers, including purchasers in this judicial district, through the Internet website, [www.TVBargains.net](http://www.TVBargains.net).

30. Defendants intentionally direct their Internet advertisements and offers for sale to potential purchasers located in this judicial district and elsewhere in New York.

31. Defendants' use of the AB ROCKET trademark and trade dress is a deliberate and intentional attempt to profit from the advertising expenditures and goodwill established by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. for the AB ROCKET trademark and exerciser and is likely to cause confusion among consumers of such products and/or likely to deceive or mislead prospective purchasers by causing the mistaken belief that the products that Defendants market are produced, sponsored, or approved by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.

32. Defendants deliver the spurious AB ROCKET counterfeit product with collateral materials including assembly instructions, a meal plan, booklet and instructional DVD ("Defendants' packaging materials") which are virtual identical copies of the assembly instructions, a meal plan and instructional DVD enclosed with the genuine AB ROCKET product of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. Defendants' packaging materials bear the trade name

and trademark EMSON of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. and falsely represents that the Defendants' counterfeit AB ROCKET product is: "Distributed by EMSON® NY, NY, 10001".

33. Defendants' use of the AB ROCKET trademark on and in connection with product substantially identical to the AB ROCKET product of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is likely to cause confusion or mistake or deceive prospective purchasers.

34. The Defendants' product is being sold in the same geographic areas where the AB ROCKET exerciser of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is sold.

35. Defendants' sales and marketing of Defendants' product under the AB ROCKET counterfeit trademark competes with sales and marketing of the AB ROCKET product of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. in interstate commerce.

36. Defendants' acts are willful, intentional and malicious.

## **COUNT I**

### **Federal Trademark Infringement and Trademark Counterfeiting**

**(15 U.S.C. § 1114)**

37. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. repeats and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 36 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

38. Count I is an action for federal trademark infringement and trademark counterfeiting.

39. Defendants' activities constitute infringement of the federally registered AB ROCKET trademark of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. in violation of the Lanham Act, including but not limited to, 15 U.S.C. § 1114(1).

40. Because E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. advertises, markets, distributes, and sells its exerciser under the AB ROCKET trademark as described in this Complaint, the trademark is the means by which the AB ROCKET exerciser is distinguished from products of others.

41. Because of the continuous and extensive use of the AB ROCKET trademark, it has come to mean, and is understood by customers, end users, and the public to signify an exercise product of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.

42. Defendants' wrongful conduct includes using a counterfeit mark in connection with the sale, offering for sale and distribution of exercisers.

43. The infringing and counterfeit material that Defendants have and are continuing to use, offer, advertise, market and sell are likely to cause confusion, mistake or deception as to their source, origin or authenticity.

44. Defendants' activities are likely to lead the public to conclude, incorrectly, that the products that Defendants are using, advertising, marketing, offering or selling originate with or are authorized by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., to the damage and harm of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., its licensees, and the public.

45. Defendants used, offered, advertised, marketed, or distributed infringing material and counterfeit marks with the willful and calculated purpose of (a) misleading, deceiving, or confusing customers and the public as to the origin and authenticity of the products and (b) trading upon the business reputation and goodwill of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. and, at minimum, Defendants acted with willful blindness to and in reckless disregard of the trademark rights and the registered mark of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.

46. As a result of their wrongful conduct, Defendants are liable to E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. for trademark infringement and trademark counterfeiting.

47. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. has suffered, and will continue to suffer, substantial losses, including but not limited to, damage to its business reputation and goodwill.

48. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is entitled to recover damages, which include its losses and all profits Defendants have made as a result of their wrongful conduct, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a), together with the costs of this action and prejudgment interest.

49. Because the Defendants' infringement of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.'s trademark is willful, within the meaning of the Lanham Trademark Act, the award of damages and profits should be trebled pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(b).

50. Alternatively, E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is entitled to statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(c) in an amount not less than \$500 or more than \$100,000 per counterfeit mark per type of goods sold, offered for sale, or distributed, as the courts consider just; or if the Court finds the use of the counterfeit mark was willful, not more than \$1,000,000 per counterfeit mark per type of goods or services sold, offered for sale, or distributed, as the Court considers just.

51. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is also entitled to injunctive relief enjoining Defendants' wrongful conduct pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1116(a), and to an order impounding all infringing materials pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1116, subsections (a) and (d)(1)(A).

52. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. has no adequate remedy at law for Defendants' wrongful conduct because, among other things: (a) the AB ROCKET trademark is unique and valuable property which has no readily determinable market value; (b) Defendants' infringement constitutes harm to E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.'s business reputation and goodwill such that E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. could not have been made whole by any other monetary award; (c) if Defendants' wrongful conduct is allowed to continue, the public is likely to become further confused, mistaken or deceive as to the source, origin or authenticity of the

infringing materials; and (d) Defendants' wrongful conduct, and the resulting damages to E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., is continuing.

53. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is also entitled to recover its attorney's fees and costs of suit pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

## **COUNT II**

### **Unfair Competition, False Representations, False Designation of Origin**

#### **(15 U.S.C. § 1125 *et seq.*)**

54. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. repeats and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 53 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

55. Count II is an action for unfair competition, false representations, false designation of origin.

56. Defendants' advertising constitutes unfair competition, false representation and false designation of origin in violation of the Lanham Act, including but not limited to, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1).

57. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. advertises, markets, distributes and sells its AB ROCKET exerciser in a distinctive trade dress by which the exerciser of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is distinguished from the products of others.

58. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. advertises, markets, distributed and sells the AB ROCKET exerciser in a distinctive box with a trade dress comprising logos, photos and graphic images (collectively, "Mishan visual designs").

59. Because of continuous and extensive use of the trade dresses of the AB ROCKET exerciser and box, such have come to mean, and are understood by customers, end users, and the public to signify the product of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.

60. Defendants' wrongful conduct includes advertising, selling and distributing a competing product in interstate commerce dressed substantially identical to the AB ROCKET exerciser trade dress.

61. Defendants' wrongful conduct also includes the use, advertising and marketing of marks and/or visual designs (specifically displays, photos and/or graphic images in connection with their goods) that are virtually indistinguishable from Mishan visual designs.

62. Defendants engaged in such wrongful conduct with the willful purpose of (a) misleading, deceiving or confusing customers and the public as to the origin and authenticity of the goods offered, marketed or distributed in connection with E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.'s marks and imitation of the AB ROCKET exerciser trade dress and Mishan visual designs; (b) trading upon business reputation and goodwill of the AB ROCKET

exerciser and of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. and (c) passing off spurious product as genuine AB ROCKET exercisers.

63. Defendants' conduct constitutes (a) false designation of origin, (b) false or misleading representation that the imitation visual design originate from or are authorized by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., and (c) unfair competition, all in violation of section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1)(A).

64. Defendants' wrongful conduct is likely to continue unless restrained and enjoined.

65. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial losses, including, but not limited to, damage to its business reputation and goodwill.

66. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is entitled to injunctive relief enjoining Defendants' wrongful pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a), and to an order impounding all imitation visual designs being used, offered, advertised, marketed, installed or distributed by Defendants. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. has no adequate remedy at law for Defendants' wrongful conduct because, among other things; (a) the AB ROCKET trademark and Mishan visual designs are unique and valuable property, which have no readily determinable market value; (b) Defendants' advertising, marketing, installation or distribution of imitation Mishan visual designs constitutes harm to E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.'s business reputation and goodwill

such that E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. could not be made whole by any monetary award; and (c) Defendants' wrongful conduct, and the resulting damage to E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., is continuing.

67. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. is also entitled to recover its attorney's fees and costs of suit pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

### **COUNT III**

#### **Patent Infringement**

#### **( 35 U.S.C. § 271)**

68. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. repeats and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 67 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

69. Count III is an action for patent infringement.

70. Defendants committed acts of infringement of the '171 patent, in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, within this district. The acts of defendants include importing, offering for sale and selling products that are made in accordance with the claims of '171 patent and actively inducing others to sell those products.

71. The infringing acts of defendants have been without express or implied license by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., are in violation of the rights of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., and defendants will continue to infringe the '171 patent unless enjoined by this Court.

72. The infringement of defendants of the '171 patent has been willful.

#### **COUNT IV**

##### **Deceptive Acts And Practices Under New York Statutory Law**

##### **(New York General Business Law § 349)**

73. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. repeats and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 72 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

74. Count IV is a cause of action for deceptive acts and practices in violation of the New York General Business Law § 349 and is joined with a substantial and related claim under the trademark laws of the United States.

75. The acts of Defendants subject the public at large to recurring deception and causes harm to the public interest by fostering deceptive acts.

76. Defendants engaged in deceptive acts and practices in the conduct of business which acts and practices has injured E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. within the meaning and in violation of the New York General Business Law § 349.

77. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. has no adequate remedy at law. The conduct of Defendants described above, has caused and, if not enjoined, will continue to cause irreparable damage to the rights of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. and the business, reputation and goodwill of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.'s damages are not yet determined.

## **COUNT V**

### **Unfair Competition under New York Common Law**

78. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. repeats and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 77 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

79. Count V is an action for unfair competition under the common law of the State of New York and is joined with a substantial and related claim under the trademark laws of the United States.

80. The acts of Defendants alleged herein have been intentionally wanton, reckless and malicious.

81. Defendants knew or should have known of the rights of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. in the trademark AB ROCKET, the trade name and trademark EMSON, and in the Mishan visual designs and product trade dress of the AB ROCKET exerciser and have

acted with conscious indifference and utter disregard of, and with the intent to interfere with, such rights and to deceive and defraud the purchasing public.

82. The Defendants have unfairly competed with E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. in violation of the common law of unfair competition in New York by using the AB ROCKET trademark and associated materials of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. to pass off product to purchasers in New York as genuine AB ROCKET exercisers.

83. By reason of the acts of Defendants alleged herein, Defendants have engaged in unfair competition under the common law of the State of New York.

84. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. has no adequate remedy at law. The conduct of Defendants has caused and, if not enjoined, will continue to cause irreparable damage to the rights of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. and to the business, reputation, and goodwill of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.'s damages are not yet determined.

## **COUNT VI**

### **Trademark Infringement under New York Common Law**

85. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. repeats and realleges the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 84 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

86. Count VI is an action for trademark infringement under the common law of the State of New York and is joined with a substantial and related claim under the trademark laws of the United States.

87. The acts of Defendants alleged herein have been intentionally wanton, reckless and malicious.

88. Defendants knew or should have known of the rights of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. in the AB ROCKET trademark, the trade dress of the AB ROCKET exerciser and trade dress of the AB ROCKET box and Defendants have acted with conscious indifference and utter disregard of, and with the intent to interfere with, such rights and to confuse, deceive and defraud the purchasing public.

89. By reason of the acts of Defendants alleged herein, Defendants have engaged in trademark infringement under the common law of the State of New York.

90. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. has no adequate remedy at law. The conduct of Defendants has caused and, if not enjoined, will continue to cause irreparable damage to the rights of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. and to the business, reputation, and goodwill of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.'s damages are not yet determined.

**WHEREFORE**, E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. prays for an order comprising:

1. Judgment against Defendants for temporary, preliminary and permanent injunctions, enjoining Defendants and their affiliates, members, managers, partners, representatives, servants, employees, attorneys and all persons in active concert privity or participation with Defendants from using the AB ROCKET trademark, the trade dress of the AB ROCKET exerciser and box and from otherwise infringing and/or using counterfeits of trademarks of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.; from competing unfairly with E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.; from falsely designating the origin of the Defendants' goods and services; from further infringement of U.S. Patent 7,381,171 from engaging in deceptive trade practices in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1051 *et seq.* and the New York General Business Law §§ 349, 350; and from further engaging in unfair competition and trademark infringement and including:

(a) using in any manner the AB ROCKET trademark, any mark or name confusingly similar to AB ROCKET, or any other mark which is so resembles trademarks of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. as to be likely to cause confusion, deception or mistake, on or in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of any exercise equipment;

(b) using any other false designation of origin or false description or representation or any other thing calculated or likely to cause confusion or mistake in the mind of the trade or public or to deceive the trade or public into believing that Defendants' products or activities are in any way sponsored, licensed, or authorized by or affiliated or in connected with Plaintiff;

(c) passing off, inducing or enabling others to sell or pass off any products as products of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. which products are not made or sold by E. Mishan &

Sons, Inc. or belonging to E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., under the control, supervision and approval of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., or for sale under the marks owned by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc., or any other mark which so resembles E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.'s marks so as to be likely to cause confusion, deception or mistake;

(d) using AB ROCKET or any confusingly similar marks in any position in connection with Internet web sites or hyperlinks that would be read by an Internet search engine or in any navigation aid, display to users of search engines or aid, or as a keyword, domain name, title or source identifier, including the metatags, or submitting a listing containing such marks to a search engine or navigation aid;

(e) from using any artwork, photographs or other materials of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.; and

(f) moving, returning or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, any counterfeit products or any other products confusingly similar to AB ROCKET products, or that otherwise bear, contain, display or utilize any of AB ROCKET marks, any derivation or colorable imitation thereof, or any mark confusingly similar thereto or likely to dilute or detract from the AB ROCKET mark.

2. A preliminary and permanent injunction issued enjoining Defendants from making, using, selling or offering for sale counterfeit products that infringe upon the trademark, patent and other intellectual property of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.

3. An accounting for Defendants' profits resulting from Defendants' infringement, contributory infringement, false advertising and unfair competition and the trebling of such damages because of the knowing, intentional, willful, and wanton nature of Defendants' conduct.

4. Judgment against Defendants for the greater of triple the amount of actual damages suffered by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(b) or statutory damages under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(c) in an amount of one million (\$1,000,000.00) dollars.

5. Judgment for an award of damages, in the amount to be determined, for the loss suffered by E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. as a result of Defendants' infringement of U.S. Patent 7,381,171.

6. An award trebling damages of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. due to Defendants' willful infringements of U.S. Patent 7,381,171.

7. Judgment for an award of punitive damages against Defendants and in favor of E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. by reason of Defendants' unfair competition and passing off.

8. Judgment that costs of this action be awarded E. Mishan & Sons, Inc.

9. Judgment that E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. be awarded its reasonable attorney's fees along with an assessment of interest on all the damages so computed.

10. Judgment against Defendants indemnifying E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. from any claims brought against E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. for negligence, debts, product liability, governmental inquiries and/or investigations, including but not limited to matters involving the Federal Trade Commission of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, or other breaches of any duty owed by Defendants to any person who was confused as to some association between E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. and Defendants as alleged in this Complaint.

11. Ordering the destruction of any and all materials in Defendants' possession, custody or control bearing a colorable imitation of the AB ROCKET trademark and trade dress, including but not limited to, the counterfeit AB ROCKET exerciser, seat pads, rollers

and other product components, packages, labels, and other printed material, along with the means of making same.

12. Ordering the destruction of any and all materials in Defendants' possession, custody or control bearing a colorable imitation of the AB ROCKET trademark, including but not limited to, the counterfeit AB ROCKET Products, seat pads, packages, labels, and other printed material, along with the means of making same.

13. Requiring Defendants to account to E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. for all sales and purchases that have occurred to date, and requiring Defendants to disgorge any and all profits derived by Defendants from selling the counterfeit AB ROCKET products.

14. Requiring Defendants to provide full disclosure of any and all information relating to its supplier or suppliers of the counterfeit AB ROCKET products.

15. Ordering a product recall of all counterfeit AB ROCKET Products for destruction.

16. Requiring Defendants to provide its customer lists for the counterfeit AB ROCKET products.

17. Requiring Defendants to file with this Court and serve on E. Mishan & Sons, Inc. within thirty (30) days of this Court's order a report setting forth the manner and form in which Defendants have complied with this injunction.

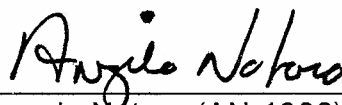
18. Damages according to each and every cause of action alleged herein.

19. Prejudgment interest.

20. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
June 11, 2008

NOTARO & MICHALOS P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angelo Notaro", is written over a horizontal line.

Angelo Notaro (AN-1306)  
John Zaccaria (JZ-3157)  
1270 Broadway, Suite 807  
New York, NY 10001-3224  
(212) 278-8600  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

## **EXHIBIT A**

Int. Cl.: 28

Prior U.S. Cls.: 22, 23, 38, and 50

Reg. No. 3,395,378

**United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Registered Mar. 11, 2008

**TRADEMARK  
PRINCIPAL REGISTER**

**AB ROCKET**

E. MISHAN & SONS, INC. (NEW YORK CORPORATION)

230 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10001

FOR: MANUALLY-OPERATED EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, IN CLASS 28 (U.S. CLS. 22, 23, 38 AND 50).

FIRST USE 1-27-2007; IN COMMERCE 1-27-2007.

THE MARK CONSISTS OF STANDARD CHARACTERS WITHOUT CLAIM TO ANY PARTICULAR FONT, STYLE, SIZE, OR COLOR.

NO CLAIM IS MADE TO THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE "AB", APART FROM THE MARK AS SHOWN.

SN 77-010,554, FILED 9-29-2006.

JILL C. ALT, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

## **EXHIBIT B**





## **EXHIBIT C**



# AB ROCKET

TV

**For Total Ab Workout**  
**TARGETS Upper Abs, Slender Abs, Lower Abs, Side Obliques**

**Get Firmer, Stronger, Smaller Abs with the Ab Rocket!**

Just rock back and forth in the Ab Rocket's comfortable seat for easier crunches, reverse crunches, side exercises and Pilates moves. With the help of 3 sets of the Resistance Cylinders you get an assisted lift, taking the strain off your neck and back. With your body supported in the ideal position, you'll feel the burn with every single lift. And as you rock, the cushioned massage rollers soothe and relax. Use the adjustable head rest to accommodate all heights.

With the Ab Rocket Fat Burning Workout DVD you will get the cardio routine done, master the Pilates moves and complete the ab training to target the upper, middle and lower abs as well as the side obliques.



- Cushions roll while you rock
- Supports back and neck
- Massages while working out



START POSITION

END POSITION



- 3 Levels of Resistance**
- 3 Sets of Resistance Cylinders for All Upper Body
  - Built from extra quality steel
  - Pads for more support



**Cylinder Launch Technology™**  
 Assisted Lift Supports Neck and Back

**ALSO INCLUDES:**



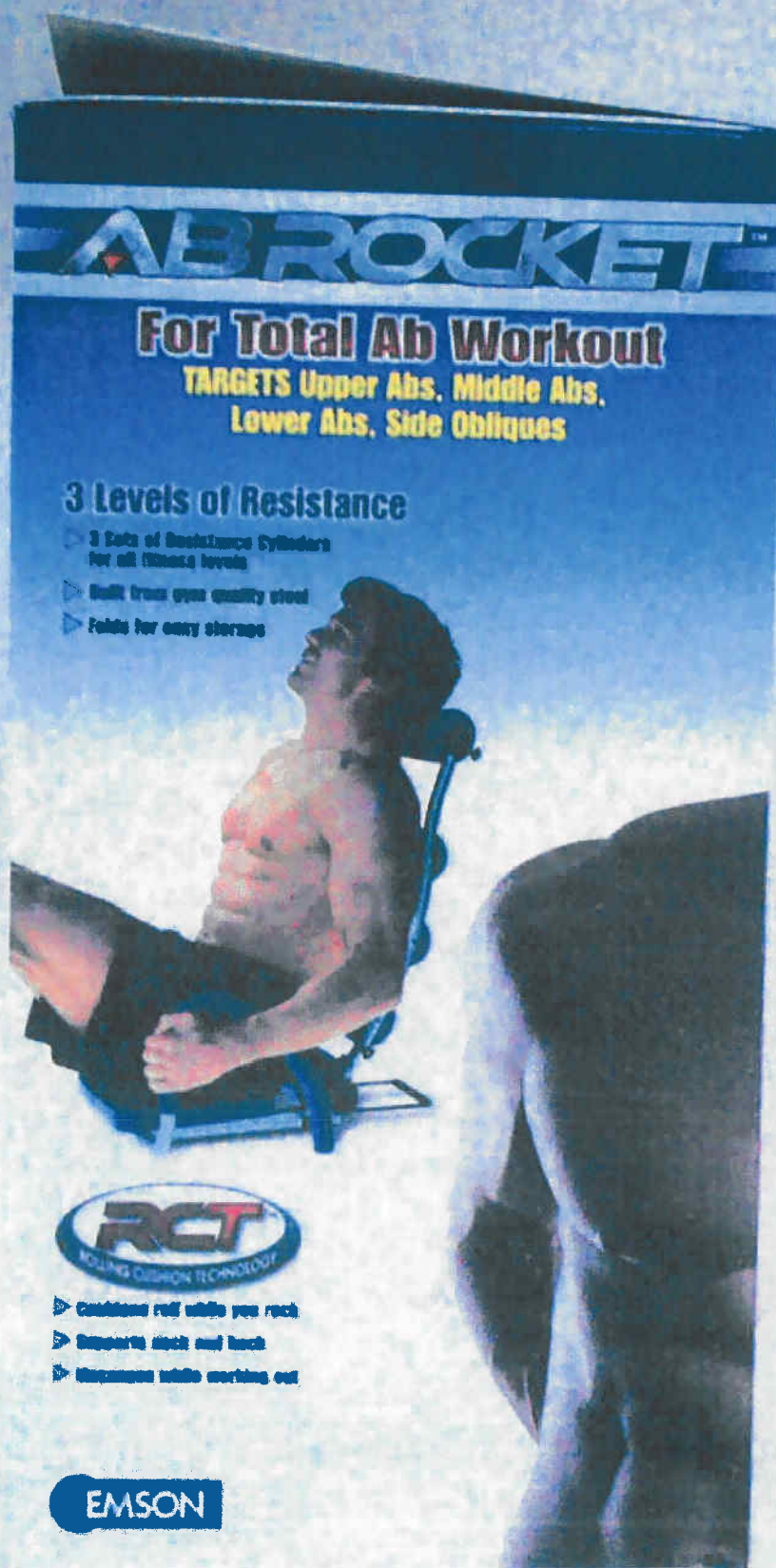
- 3 Videos Combined in 1 DVD:**
- Ab Starter Program
  - Cardio Fitness Program
  - Pilates Abs Program



**The Rocket Away**  
 The Complete  
 Workout Program



**EMSON**



**ABROCKET™**

**For Total Ab Workout**  
**TARGETS Upper Abs, Middle Abs, Lower Abs, Side Obliques**

**3 Levels of Resistance**

- ▶ 3 Sets of Resistance Cylinders for all fitness levels
- ▶ Built from open quality steel
- ▶ Folds for easy storage

**RCT**  
ROLLING CUSHION TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ Cushions roll while you rock
- ▶ Supports neck and back
- ▶ Absorbs while working out

**EMSON**

# ABROCKET™

## For Total Ab Workout

TARGETS Upper Abs, Middle Abs,  
Lower Abs, Side Obliques

### 3 Levels of Resistance

- ▶ 3 Sets of Resistance Cylinders for all fitness levels
- ▶ Built from gym quality steel
- ▶ Folds for easy storage



- ▶ Cushions roll while you rock
- ▶ Supports neck and back
- ▶ Massages while working out

EMSON



## **EXHIBIT D**



US007381171B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Chen**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,381,171 B2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 3, 2008**

(54) **BACK AND ABDOMEN EXERCISING APPARATUS**

(76) Inventor: **Chih-Liang Chen**, No. 66, Alley 71, Lane 252, Sec. 2, Jieshou Rd., Pateh City, Taoyuan Hsien (TW)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/580,985**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 16, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2008/0090709 A1 Apr. 17, 2008

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A63B 26/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **482/140; 482/142**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **482/142, 482/140; D21/676, 686, 690**

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

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5,772,563 A \* 6/1998 Lin ..... 782/140  
5,833,590 A \* 11/1998 Chiu et al. .... 482/142  
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6,966,871 B2 \* 11/2005 Parmater ..... 482/140  
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2006/0100073 A1 \* 5/2006 Ho ..... 482/140  
2006/0205575 A1 \* 9/2006 Ho ..... 482/140

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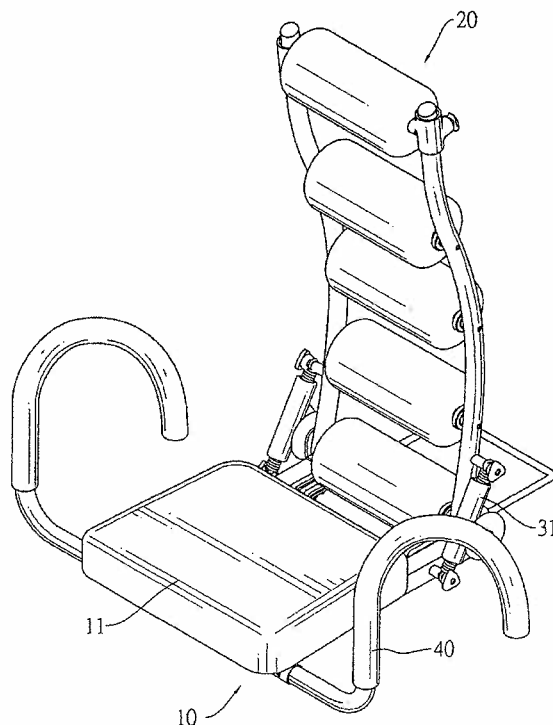
*Primary Examiner*—Lori Amerson

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Rosenberg, Klein & Lee

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A back and abdomen exercising apparatus includes a base and a back rest, and the backrest is provided at the rear portion of the base. The backrest is mounted on the base with two resilient members. A user sits on the base with back abutting against the backrest and presses the backrest backward, the resilient members provide a biasing force against the user. During the process, the muscle back and abdomen of the user is exercised and trained. In addition, the exercising apparatus has simple components, a simple operation method, a small size and light, and is convenient to carry.

**5 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**



**U.S. Patent**

**Jun. 3, 2008**

**Sheet 1 of 6**

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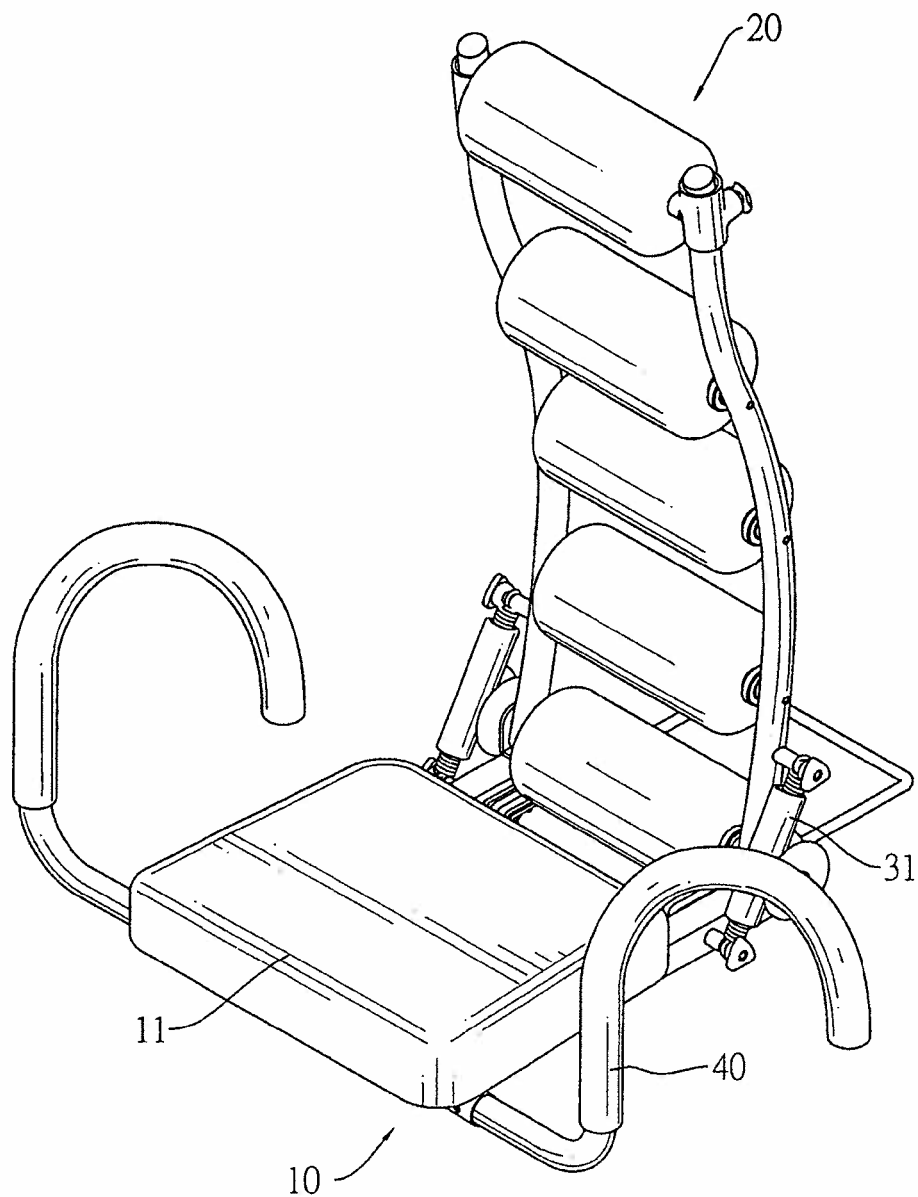


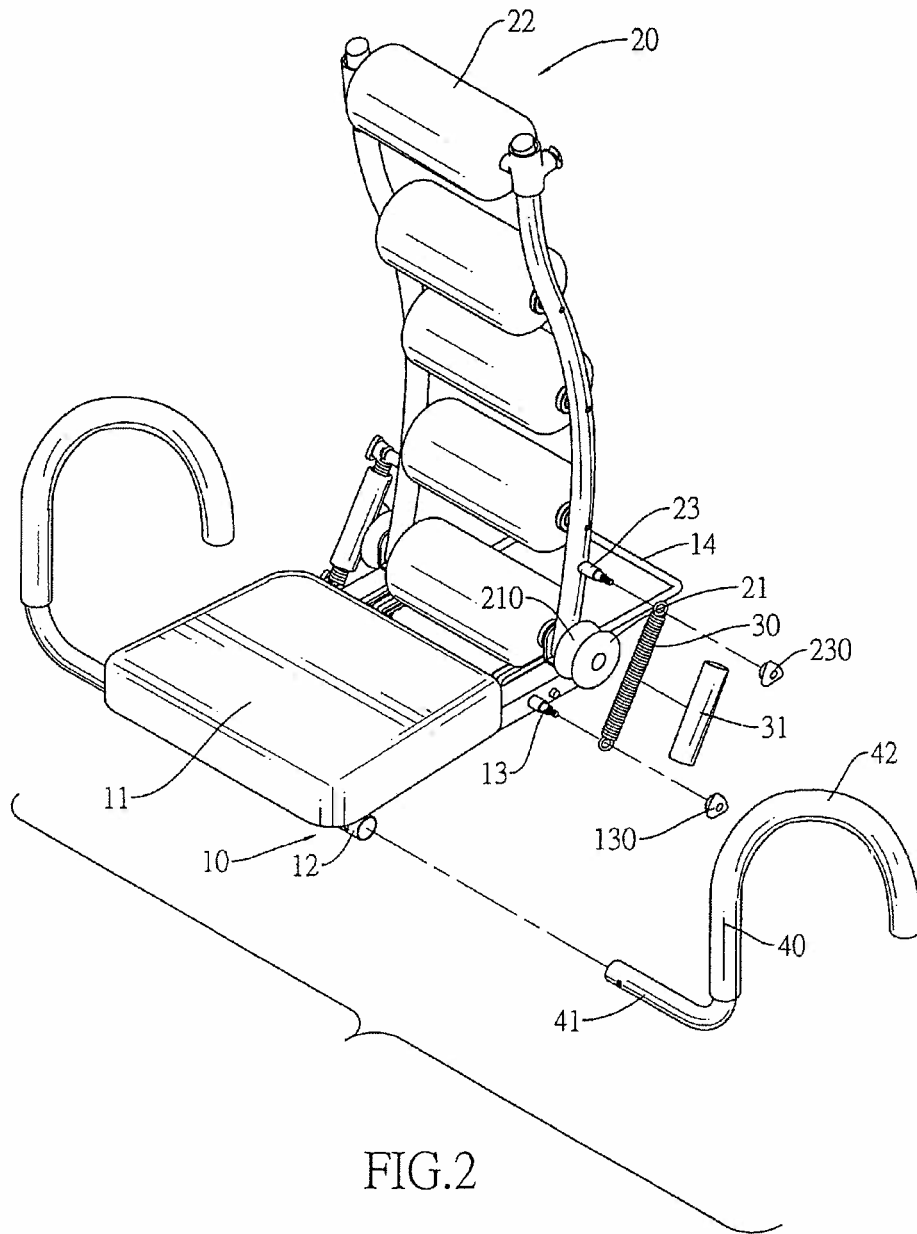
FIG.1

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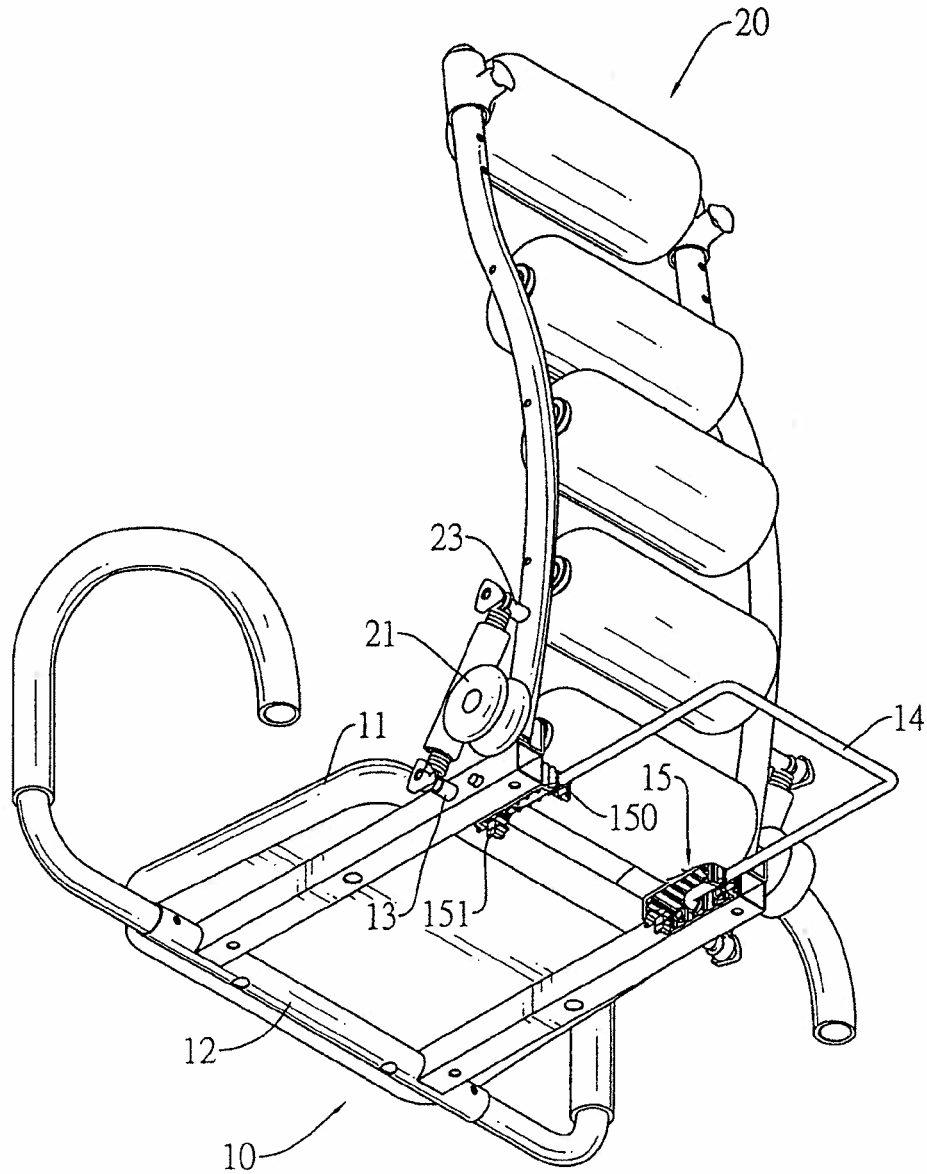


FIG.3

**U.S. Patent**

**Jun. 3, 2008**

**Sheet 4 of 6**

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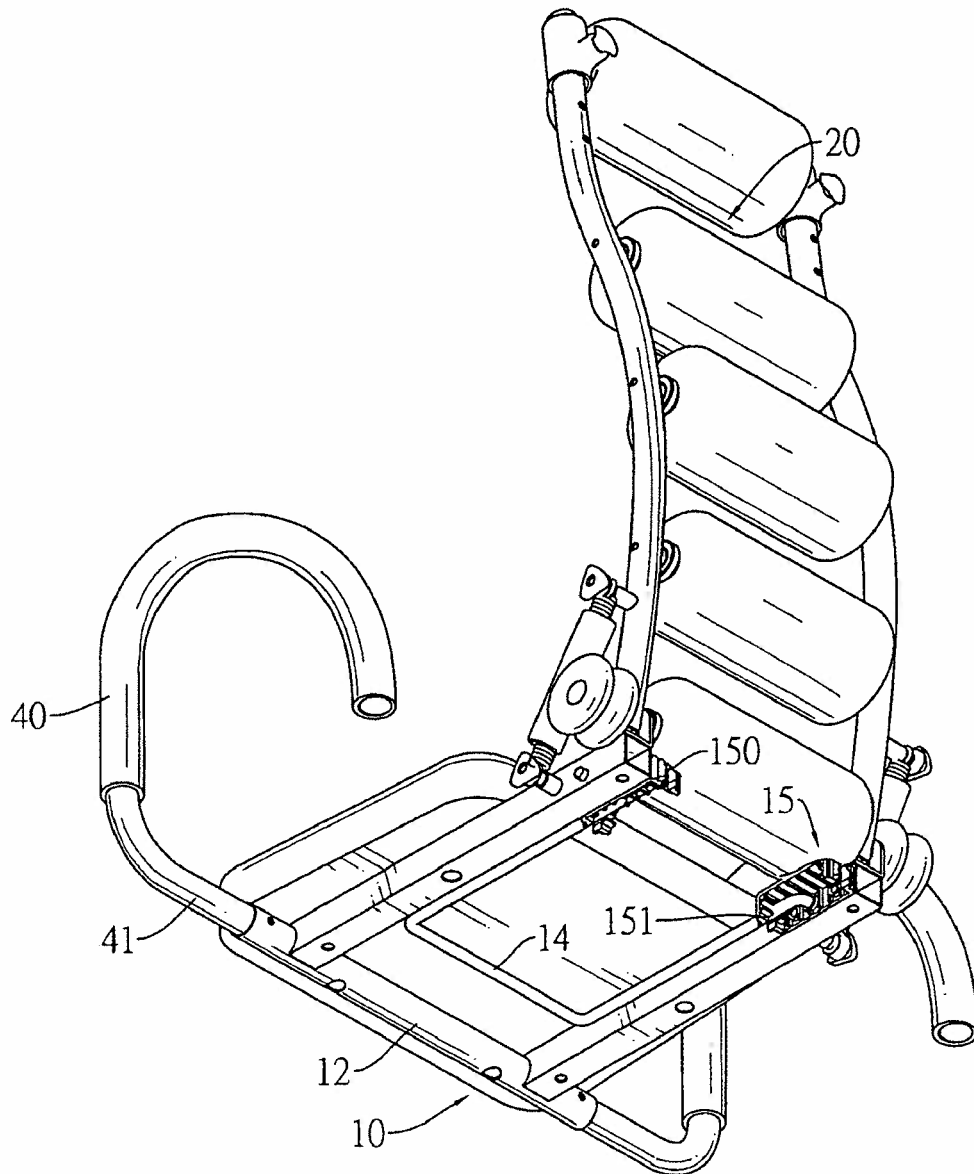


FIG.4

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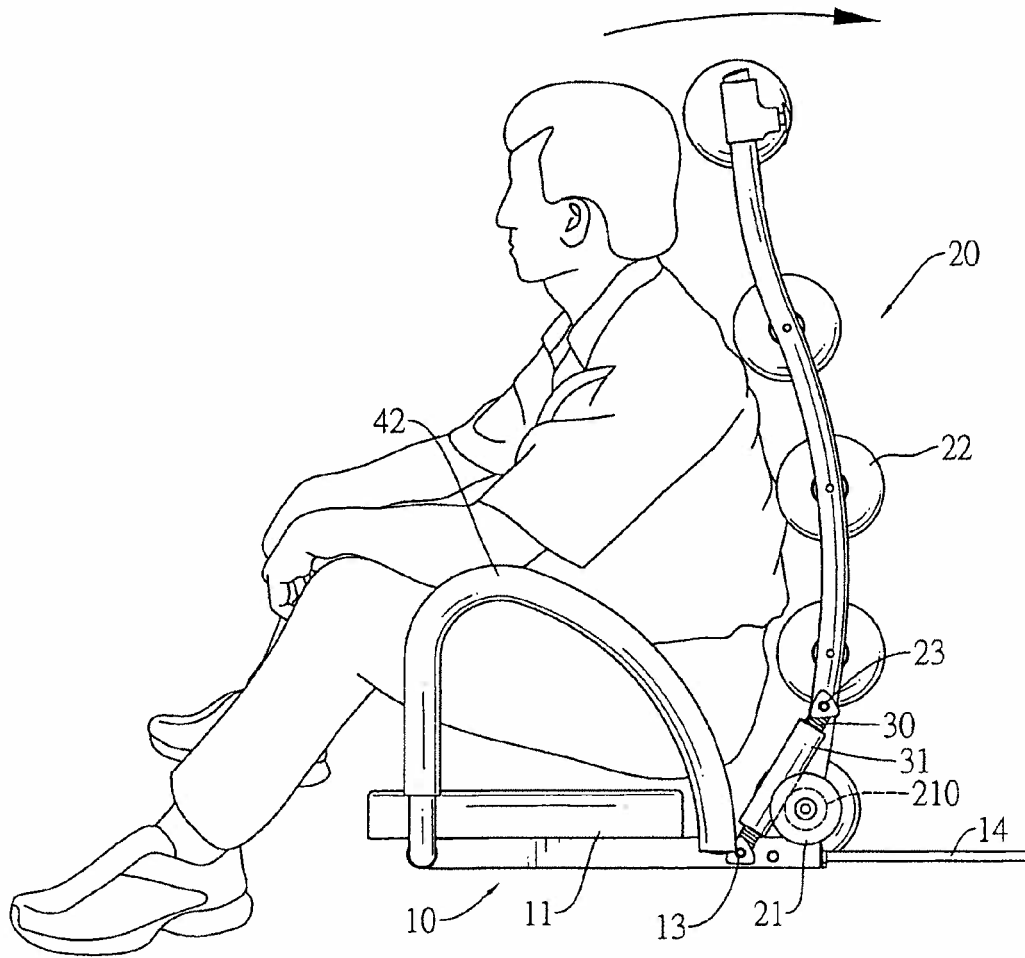


FIG.5

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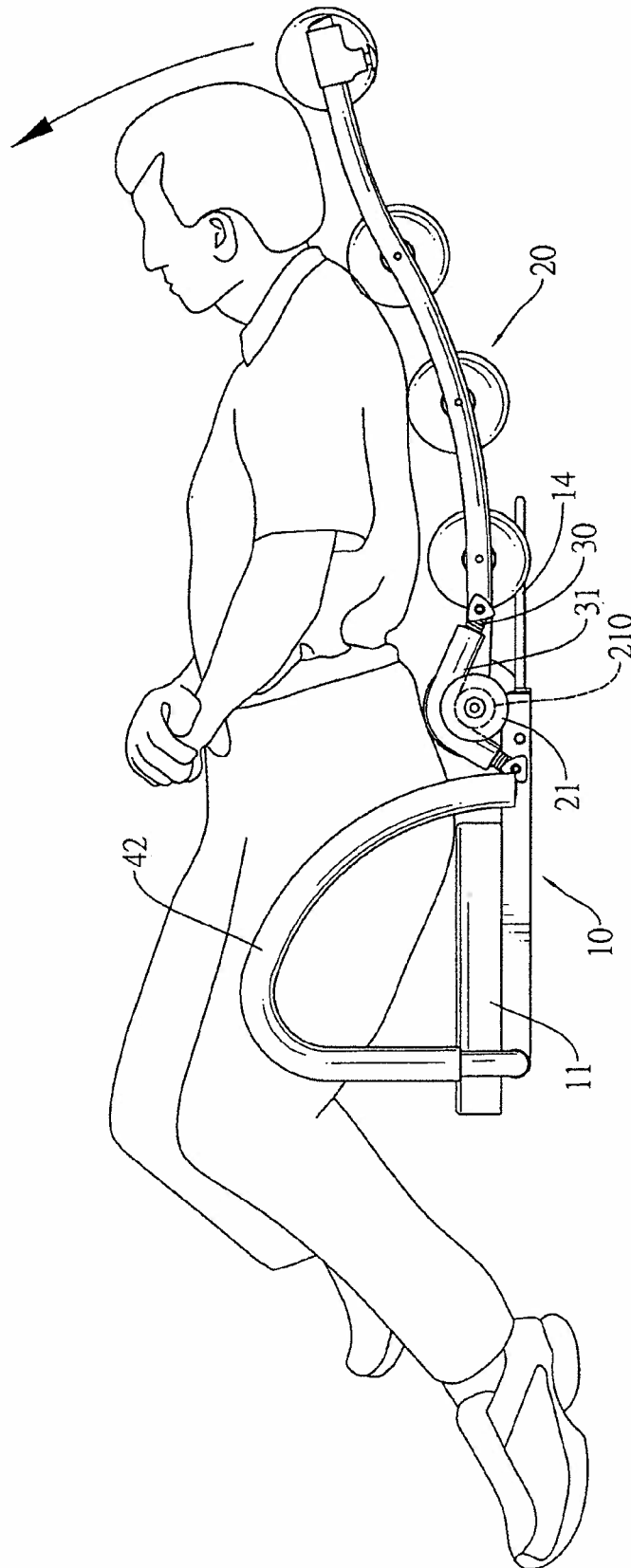


FIG.6

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**BACK AND ABDOMEN EXERCISING  
APPARATUS****BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to an indoor exercising device, and particularly relates to a back and abdomen exercising apparatus.

**2. Description of the Related Art**

Conventional exercising apparatuses such as running machines, weight lifting machines help people to exercise themselves in the spare time.

A sit-up exercising apparatus is used to help people lie down and sit up to exercise the back and abdomen muscle. However, the conventional sit-up exercising apparatus has a big size, a heavy weight and a complicated structure and is hard to carry.

Therefore, the invention provides a back and abdomen exercising apparatus to mitigate or obviate the aforementioned problems.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The main objective of the present invention is to provide a back and abdomen exercising apparatus, which comprises: a base, a backrest and two resilient members.

The base has a cushion provided on the front portion, and two first fixing portions are provided in the rear portion of the base and protrude out of the surface of the base.

The backrest is provided at and pivotally mounted with the rear portion of the base. The backrest has multiple rollers mounted parallelly thereon, and two second fixing portions are provided at two sides of the backrest and protruding out of the surface of the bracket.

The two resilient members is provided at two sides of the base and the backrest, the two ends of each resilient member are respectively connected to the first and second fixing portions on a corresponding side of the base and the bracket.

Other objectives, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a back and abdomen exercising apparatus in accordance with this invention;

FIG. 2 is a partial exploded view of the back and abdomen exercising apparatus in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is another perspective view of the back and abdomen exercising apparatus in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an operational perspective view of the exercising apparatus in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is an operational side view of the back and abdomen exercising apparatus in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 6 is another operational side view of the back and abdomen exercising apparatus in FIG. 1.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE  
PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

With reference to FIGS. 1-2, an exercising apparatus has a base (10), a backrest (20), two resilient members (30), and two arm supports (40).

The base (10) is placed on the ground and has a cushion (11) provided on the front portion of the base (10). A bushing

2

(12) is transversely mounted below the cushion (11), as shown in FIG. 3. Two first fixing portions (13) are provided in the rear portion of the base (10) and protrude out of the surface of the base (10). Each first fixing portion (13) has a thread, which is screwed with a screw nut (130). Two wheels (21) are rotatably mounted at two sides of the rear portion of the base (10). A bracing frame (14) and two positioning portions (15) are mounted at the rear portion of the base (10). Each wheel (21) has a round channel (210) defined therein. The bracing frame (14) is U-shaped, the two ends of the bracing frame (14) are pivotally mounted at two sides of the base (10). With reference to FIGS. 3-4, the two positioning portions (15) are respectively mounted at two sides of the base (10), and each includes a stop (150) and a button member (151). The stop (150) is used for limiting the turning of the bracing frame (14). When the bracing frame (14) pivotally turns to in a line with the base (10), as shown in FIG. 3, the stop (150) will abut with and keep the bracing frame (14) from turning anymore. Accordingly, the bracing frame (14) can provide the exercising apparatus an auxiliary supporting effect to stand the base (10) on the ground in stable. The button member (151) has a hole, which has a diameter slightly smaller than that of the bracing frame (14). With a resilient deformation of holes in the button members (151), the two ends of the bracing frame (14) are securely engaged in the holes.

The backrest (20) is provided at and extends upward from the rear portion of the base (10). The two sides of the backrest (20) bottom are pivotally mounted with the rear portion of the base (10). The backrest (20) has multiple roller (22) mounted parallelly thereon. Two second fixing portions (23) are provided at two sides of the backrest (20) and protrude out of the surface of the bracket (20). Each second fixing portion (23) has a thread, which is screwed with a screw nut (230).

The two resilient members (30) are provided at two sides of the base (10) and the backrest (20), and abut respectively with the round channels (210) in the wheels (21). The two ends of each resilient member (30) are respectively connected to the first and second fixing portions (13), (23) on a corresponding side of the base (10) and the bracket (20), and are fixed by the screw nuts (130), (230). In addition, each resilient member (30) is held in a resilient sleeve (31), and the sleeve (31) abuts with a corresponding round channel (210).

Each arm support (40) has a connection portion (41) formed in one end and mounted around one end of the bushing (12) to combine with the base (10). The other end of the arm support (40) is curved to form an armrest (42).

With reference to FIG. 5, a user sits on the cushion (11) with his back against the roller (22) of the backrest (20). The user can also rest arms on the armrests (42) if necessary. The back and the abdomen of the user force to press against the backrest (20) backward, so that the backrest (20) is pivotally turned backward relative to the base (10). During that process, the resilient members (30) and the sleeves (31) are both curved along the round channels (210). The resilient members (30) are extended and pulled by the second fixing portions (23) to generate a biasing force against the user, thus the user has to continuously apply a force on the backrest (20) to fully press the backrest (20) down. Accordingly, a training and exercising effect is provided to the muscle in the back and abdomen.

With reference to FIG. 6, after the user fully presses down the backrest (20), the resilient members (30) pull the backrest (20) to the original place, and this helps the user to get up to allow the user to exercise again.

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It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only. Changes may be made in the details, especially in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

What is claimed is:

1. A back and abdomen exercising apparatus comprising:  
a base, a backrest and two resilient members;

the base having a cushion provided on a front portion of the base, and two first fixing portions provided on two sides of a rear portion of the base and protruding out of a surface of the base;

the backrest provided at and pivotally mounted with the rear portion of the base, the backrest having multiple rollers mounted in parallel on the bracket, and two second fixing portions provided at two sides of the backrest and protruding out of a surface of a bracket;

the two resilient members provided at the two sides of the base and the backrest, each resilient member having two ends respectively connected to the first and second fixing portions on a corresponding side of the base and the bracket; and

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two wheels being respectively mounted at the sides of the rear portion of the base, each wheel having a round channel defined in the wheel.

2. The back and abdomen exercising apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a bracing frame and two positioning portions are mounted at the rear portion of the base, the bracing frame has two ends pivotally mounted at the sides of the base, the two positioning portions are respectively mounted at the sides of the base, and each positioning portion includes a stop.

3. The back and abdomen exercising apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein each positioning portion further has a button member.

4. The back and abdomen exercising apparatuses claimed in claim 1, wherein a bushing is mounted transversely below the cushion, and two arm supports are connected to the base and each has a connection portion mounted around one end of the bushing and a curved armrest.

5. The back and abdomen exercising apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each resilient member has a resilient sleeve mounted around the resilient member and abutting the round channel in a corresponding wheel.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **EXHIBIT D**



US007381171B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Chen**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,381,171 B2**(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 3, 2008**

(54) **BACK AND ABDOMEN EXERCISING APPARATUS**

(76) Inventor: **Chih-Liang Chen**, No. 66, Alley 71, Lane 252, Sec. 2, Jieshou Rd., Pateh City, Taoyuan Hsien (TW)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/580,985**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 16, 2006**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2008/0090709 A1 Apr. 17, 2008

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A63B 26/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **482/140; 482/142**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **482/142, 482/140; D21/676, 686, 690**

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

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5,746,688 A \* 5/1998 Prager ..... 482/142

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5,772,563 A \* 6/1998 Lin ..... 782/140  
5,833,590 A \* 11/1998 Chiu et al. .... 482/142  
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2006/0205575 A1 \* 9/2006 Ho ..... 482/140

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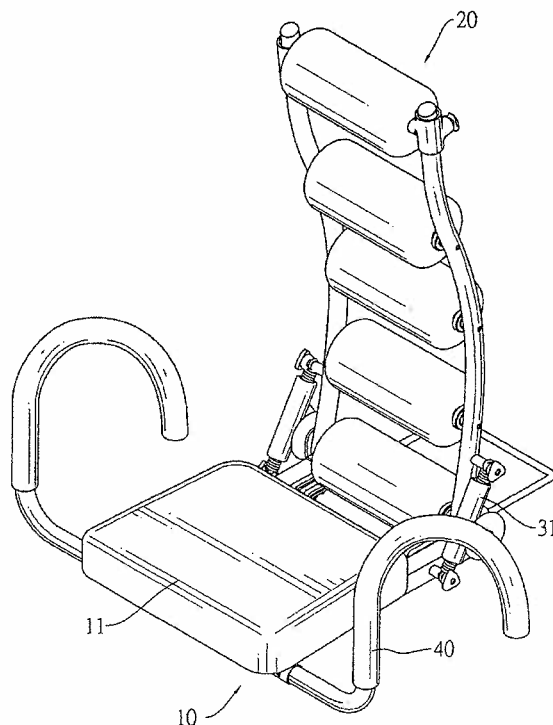
*Primary Examiner*—Lori Amerson

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Rosenberg, Klein & Lee

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A back and abdomen exercising apparatus includes a base and a back rest, and the backrest is provided at the rear portion of the base. The backrest is mounted on the base with two resilient members. A user sits on the base with back abutting against the backrest and presses the backrest backward, the resilient members provide a biasing force against the user. During the process, the muscle back and abdomen of the user is exercised and trained. In addition, the exercising apparatus has simple components, a simple operation method, a small size and light, and is convenient to carry.

**5 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**



**U.S. Patent**

**Jun. 3, 2008**

**Sheet 1 of 6**

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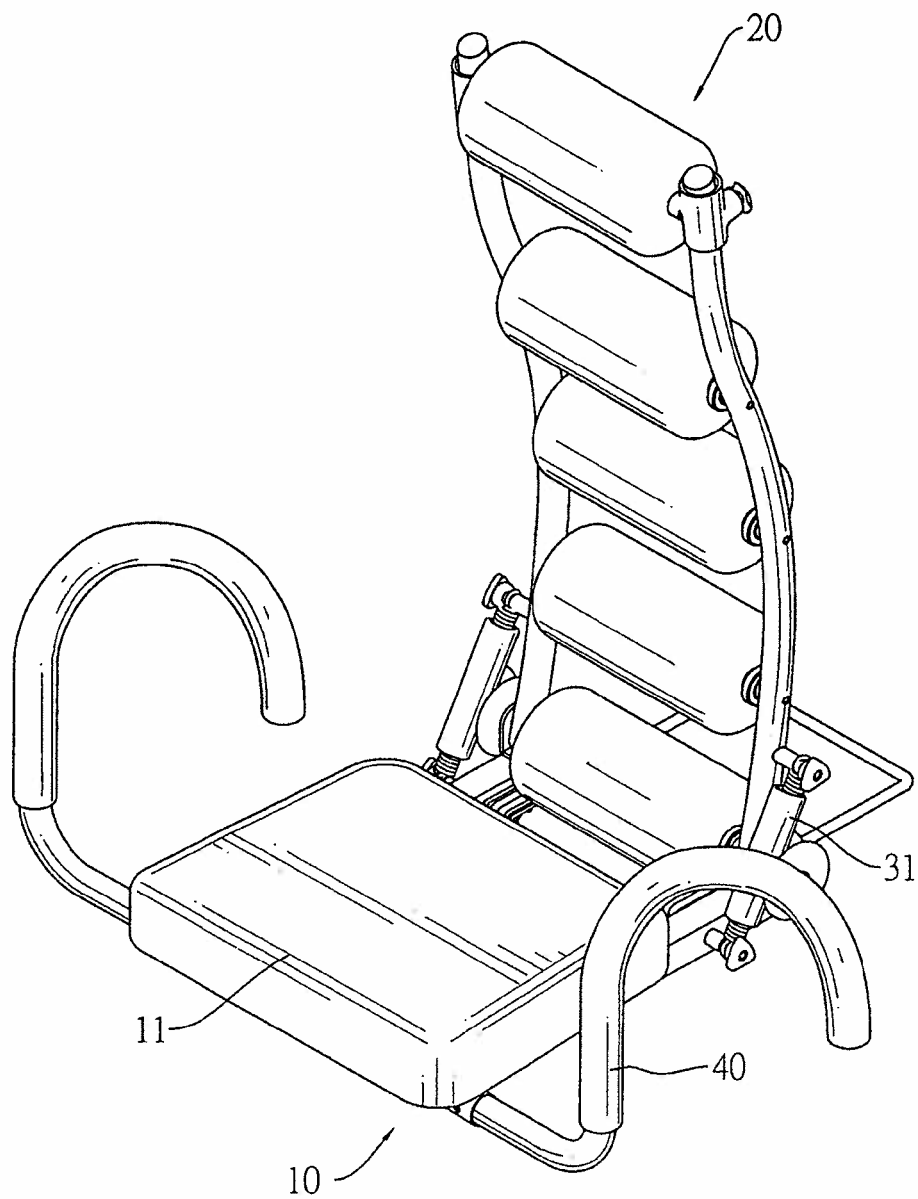


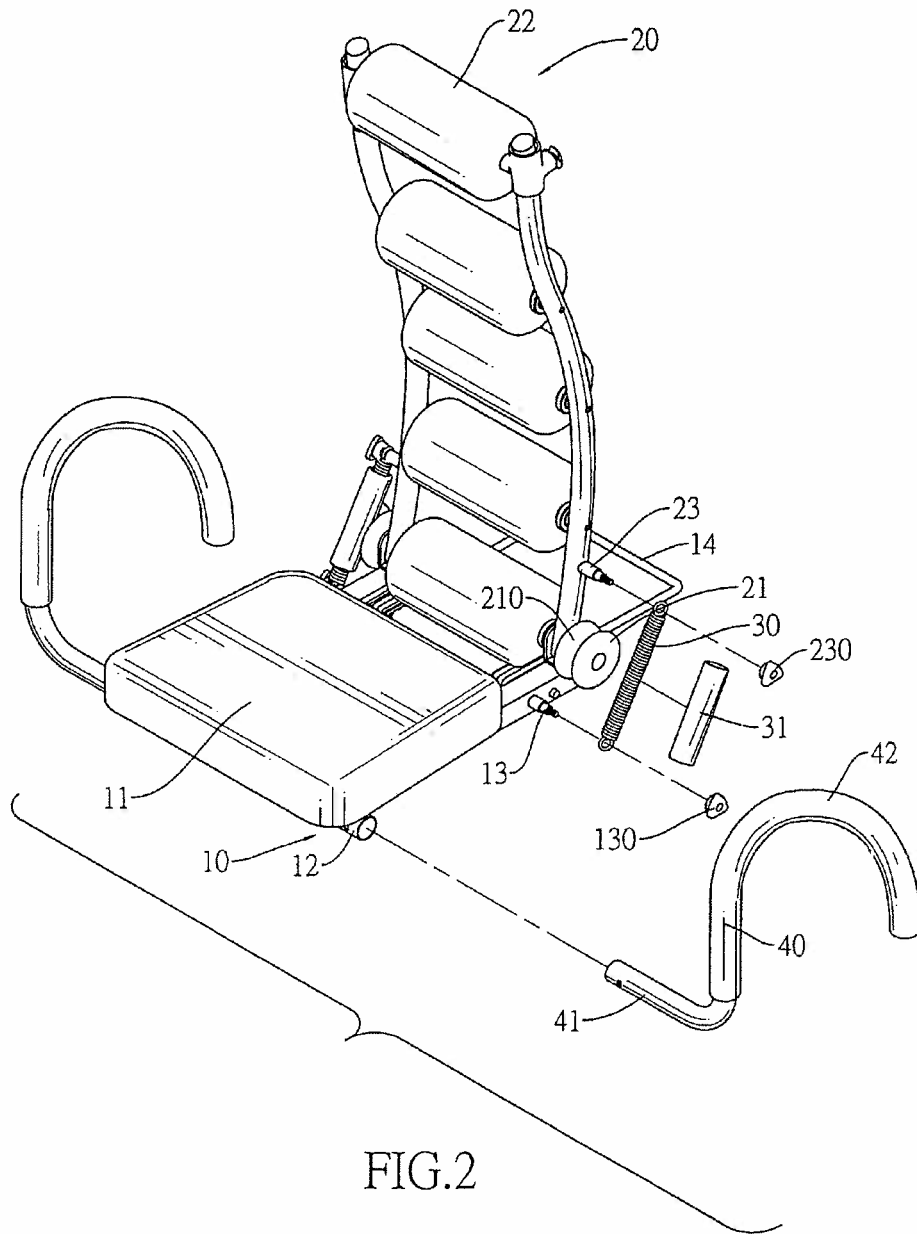
FIG.1

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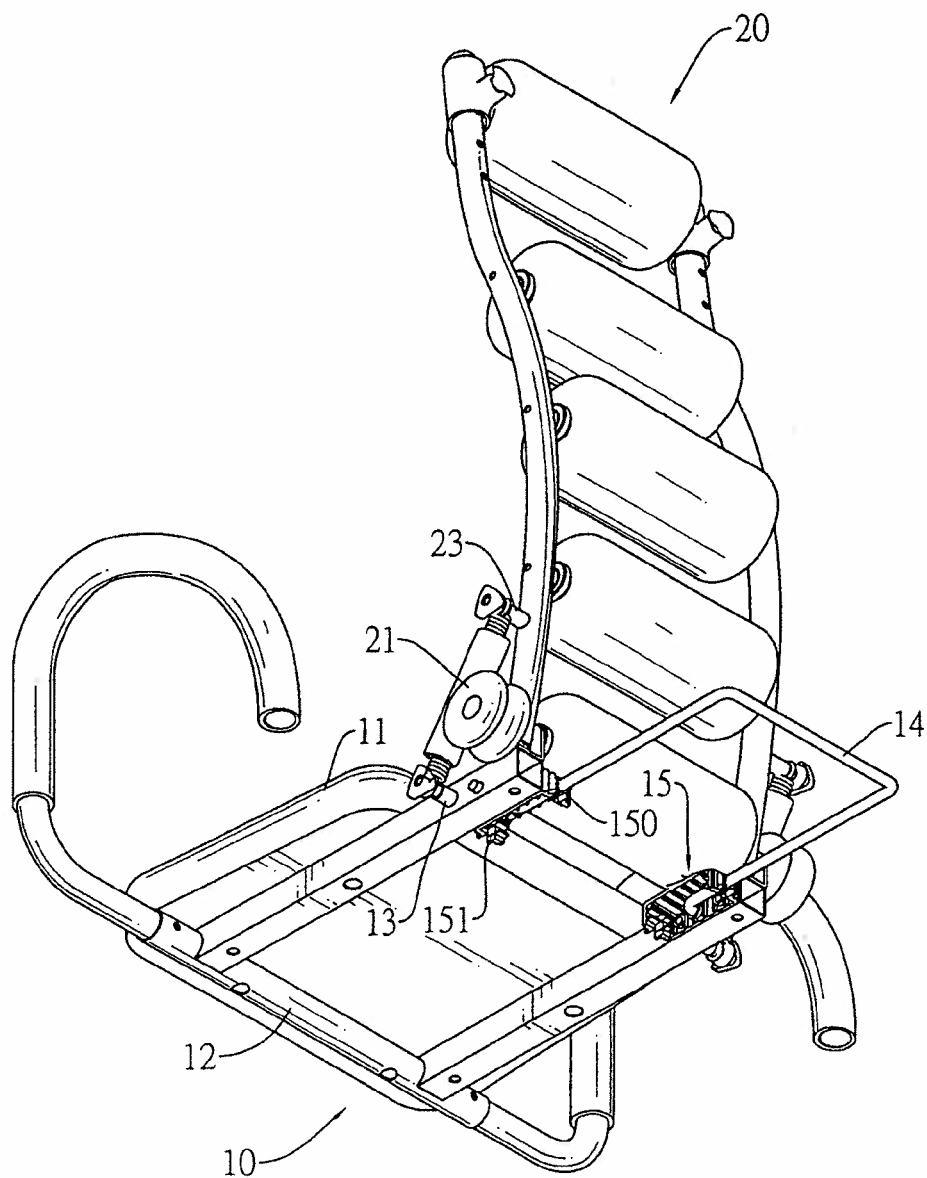


FIG.3

**U.S. Patent**

**Jun. 3, 2008**

**Sheet 4 of 6**

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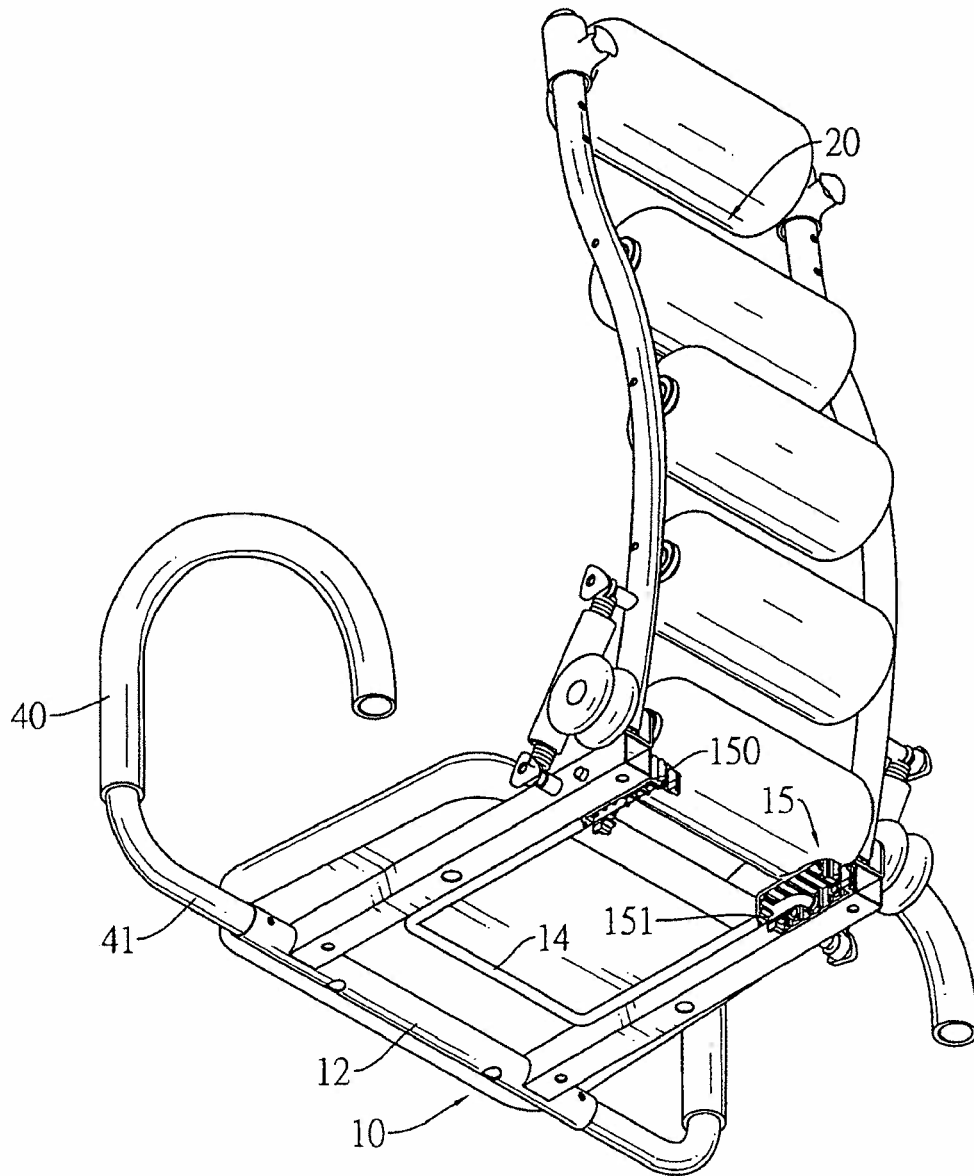


FIG.4

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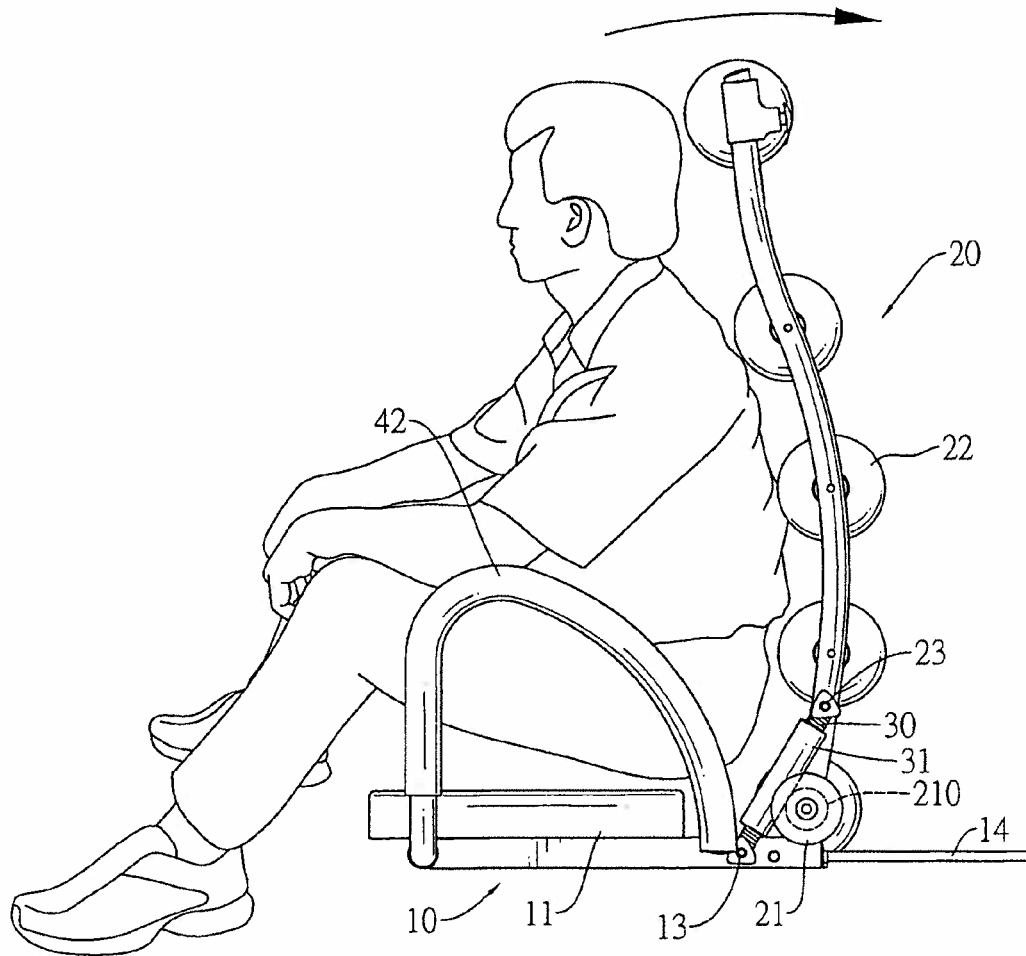


FIG.5

U.S. Patent

Jun. 3, 2008

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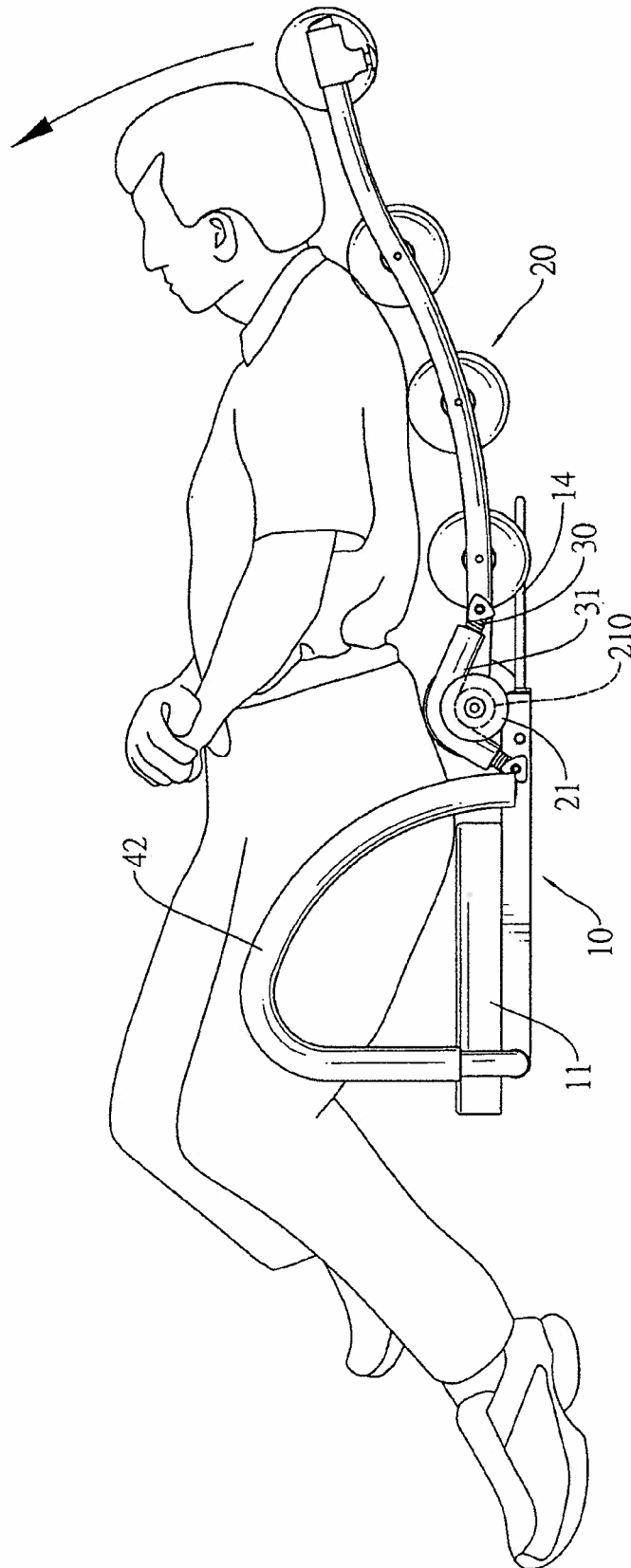


FIG.6

US 7,381,171 B2

1

**BACK AND ABDOMEN EXERCISING  
APPARATUS****BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to an indoor exercising device, and particularly relates to a back and abdomen exercising apparatus.

**2. Description of the Related Art**

Conventional exercising apparatuses such as running machines, weight lifting machines help people to exercise themselves in the spare time.

A sit-up exercising apparatus is used to help people lie down and sit up to exercise the back and abdomen muscle. However, the conventional sit-up exercising apparatus has a big size, a heavy weight and a complicated structure and is hard to carry.

Therefore, the invention provides a back and abdomen exercising apparatus to mitigate or obviate the aforementioned problems.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The main objective of the present invention is to provide a back and abdomen exercising apparatus, which comprises: a base, a backrest and two resilient members.

The base has a cushion provided on the front portion, and two first fixing portions are provided in the rear portion of the base and protrude out of the surface of the base.

The backrest is provided at and pivotally mounted with the rear portion of the base. The backrest has multiple rollers mounted parallelly thereon, and two second fixing portions are provided at two sides of the backrest and protruding out of the surface of the bracket.

The two resilient members is provided at two sides of the base and the backrest, the two ends of each resilient member are respectively connected to the first and second fixing portions on a corresponding side of the base and the bracket.

Other objectives, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a back and abdomen exercising apparatus in accordance with this invention;

FIG. 2 is a partial exploded view of the back and abdomen exercising apparatus in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is another perspective view of the back and abdomen exercising apparatus in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an operational perspective view of the exercising apparatus in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is an operational side view of the back and abdomen exercising apparatus in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 6 is another operational side view of the back and abdomen exercising apparatus in FIG. 1.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE  
PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

With reference to FIGS. 1-2, an exercising apparatus has a base (10), a backrest (20), two resilient members (30), and two arm supports (40).

The base (10) is placed on the ground and has a cushion (11) provided on the front portion of the base (10). A bushing

2

(12) is transversely mounted below the cushion (11), as shown in FIG. 3. Two first fixing portions (13) are provided in the rear portion of the base (10) and protrude out of the surface of the base (10). Each first fixing portion (13) has a thread, which is screwed with a screw nut (130). Two wheels (21) are rotatably mounted at two sides of the rear portion of the base (10). A bracing frame (14) and two positioning portions (15) are mounted at the rear portion of the base (10). Each wheel (21) has a round channel (210) defined therein. The bracing frame (14) is U-shaped, the two ends of the bracing frame (14) are pivotally mounted at two sides of the base (10). With reference to FIGS. 3-4, the two positioning portions (15) are respectively mounted at two sides of the base (10), and each includes a stop (150) and a button member (151). The stop (150) is used for limiting the turning of the bracing frame (14). When the bracing frame (14) pivotally turns to in a line with the base (10), as shown in FIG. 3, the stop (150) will abut with and keep the bracing frame (14) from turning anymore. Accordingly, the bracing frame (14) can provide the exercising apparatus an auxiliary supporting effect to stand the base (10) on the ground in stable. The button member (151) has a hole, which has a diameter slightly smaller than that of the bracing frame (14). With a resilient deformation of holes in the button members (151), the two ends of the bracing frame (14) are securely engaged in the holes.

The backrest (20) is provided at and extends upward from the rear portion of the base (10). The two sides of the backrest (20) bottom are pivotally mounted with the rear portion of the base (10). The backrest (20) has multiple roller (22) mounted parallelly thereon. Two second fixing portions (23) are provided at two sides of the backrest (20) and protrude out of the surface of the bracket (20). Each second fixing portion (23) has a thread, which is screwed with a screw nut (230).

The two resilient members (30) are provided at two sides of the base (10) and the backrest (20), and abut respectively with the round channels (210) in the wheels (21). The two ends of each resilient member (30) are respectively connected to the first and second fixing portions (13), (23) on a corresponding side of the base (10) and the bracket (20), and are fixed by the screw nuts (130), (230). In addition, each resilient member (30) is held in a resilient sleeve (31), and the sleeve (31) abuts with a corresponding round channel (210).

Each arm support (40) has a connection portion (41) formed in one end and mounted around one end of the bushing (12) to combine with the base (10). The other end of the arm support (40) is curved to form an armrest (42).

With reference to FIG. 5, a user sits on the cushion (11) with his back against the roller (22) of the backrest (20). The user can also rest arms on the armrests (42) if necessary. The back and the abdomen of the user force to press against the backrest (20) backward, so that the backrest (20) is pivotally turned backward relative to the base (10). During that process, the resilient members (30) and the sleeves (31) are both curved along the round channels (210). The resilient members (30) are extended and pulled by the second fixing portions (23) to generate a biasing force against the user, thus the user has to continuously apply a force on the backrest (20) to fully press the backrest (20) down. Accordingly, a training and exercising effect is provided to the muscle in the back and abdomen.

With reference to FIG. 6, after the user fully presses down the backrest (20), the resilient members (30) pull the backrest (20) to the original place, and this helps the user to get up to allow the user to exercise again.

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It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only. Changes may be made in the details, especially in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

What is claimed is:

1. A back and abdomen exercising apparatus comprising:  
a base, a backrest and two resilient members;

the base having a cushion provided on a front portion of the base, and two first fixing portions provided on two sides of a rear portion of the base and protruding out of a surface of the base;

the backrest provided at and pivotally mounted with the rear portion of the base, the backrest having multiple rollers mounted in parallel on the bracket, and two second fixing portions provided at two sides of the backrest and protruding out of a surface of a bracket;

the two resilient members provided at the two sides of the base and the backrest, each resilient member having two ends respectively connected to the first and second fixing portions on a corresponding side of the base and the bracket; and

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two wheels being respectively mounted at the sides of the rear portion of the base, each wheel having a round channel defined in the wheel.

2. The back and abdomen exercising apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a bracing frame and two positioning portions are mounted at the rear portion of the base, the bracing frame has two ends pivotally mounted at the sides of the base, the two positioning portions are respectively mounted at the sides of the base, and each positioning portion includes a stop.

3. The back and abdomen exercising apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein each positioning portion further has a button member.

4. The back and abdomen exercising apparatuses claimed in claim 1, wherein a bushing is mounted transversely below the cushion, and two arm supports are connected to the base and each has a connection portion mounted around one end of the bushing and a curved armrest.

5. The back and abdomen exercising apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each resilient member has a resilient sleeve mounted around the resilient member and abutting the round channel in a corresponding wheel.

\* \* \* \* \*